

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EA-10 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00  
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 EB-08  
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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8027

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

USMISSION GENEVA

DIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USMISSION MBFR VIENNA

USMISSION USNATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 2383

BERN FOR INDIAN OCEAN DELEGATION

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UR, US, XO, PARM

SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS COMMENTARY ON INDIAN OCEAN

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1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. FOLLOWING ARTICLE ON INDIAN OCEAN  
APPEARED ON FEBRUARY 6 TASS ENGLISH LANGUAGE TICKER. IT  
HAS NOT APPEARED IN THE SOVIET CENTRAL PRESS. ARTICLE,  
ENTITLED "IN THE INTERESTS OF PEACE AND SECURITY WEEK,"  
IS ATTRIBUTED TO TASS POLITICAL COMMENTATOR MIKHAIL  
YAKOVLEV.

2. BEGIN TEXT: "A WEEK OF ACTION AGAINST IMPERIALIST MILITARY BASES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AND FOR PROCLAIMING IT A ZONE OF PEACE WILL BE HELD ON THE INITIATIVE OF THE WORLD PEACE COUNCIL FROM FEBRUARY 16 TO FEBRUARY 23.

THE INDIAN OCEAN BASIN COMPRISES TENS OF ASIAN AND AFRICAN COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE A QUARTER OF THE POPULATION OF THE WORLD. THE PEOPLES OF THE AREA ARE VITALLY INTERESTED THAT IT SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BECOME AN ARENA OF CONFRONTATION.

BUT THE IDEA OF TURNING THE INDIAN OCEAN INTO A ZONE OF PEACE WHICH WAS ADVANCED BY THE REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA SEVERAL YEARS AGO HAS NOT RPT NOT YET BEEN IMPLEMENTED. THE UNITED STATES CREATED A WIDE NETWORK OF MILITARY BASES FROM THE COAST OF AFRICA TO AUSTRALIA AND, DESPITE NUMEROUS PROTESTS, CONTINUE BUILDING NEW BASES, SPECIFICALLY IN THE DIEGO GARCIA ISLAND, AT HIGH PACE. BRITAIN, TOO, PRESERVES ITS MILITARY PRESENCE EAST OF SUEZ. FRANCE HAS ITS STRONG-POINTS IN THE AREA.

FACTS SHOW THAT ALL THESE BASES ARE AN INSTRUMENT FOR BRINGING PRESSURE ON FREEDOM-LOVING STATES TO MAKE THEM CONDUCT THE POLICY THAT SUITS THE CAPITALIST WEST. CONFIDENTIAL

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THE SOVIET UNION, SUPPORTING THE STRIVING OF THE PEOPLES OF THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA FOR PEACE AND SECURITY, CAME OUT MANY TIMES WITH PROPOSALS OPENING A REAL WAY TO SOLVING THE PROBLEM THAT AGITATES THEM. IN THE SOVIET UNION'S OPINION, THE KEY PROBLEM IS TO ENSURE THAT THERE ARE NO RPT NO FOREIGN BASES IN THE AREA, THAT THOSE THAT HAVE ALREADY BEEN CREATED SHOULD BE DISMANTLED AND NEW ONES SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BE SET UP. SUCH A VIEWPOINT HAS BEEN APPROVED NOT RPT NOT ONLY BY THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION, BUT ALSO BE INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC AS A WHOLE.

THE TALKS BETWEEN THE USSR AND THE USA CONCERNING LIMITATION OF ARMAMENTS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA THAT WERE STARTED ON THE SOVIET UNION'S INITIATIVE IN MID LAST YEAR HELP ACHIEVE THESE GOALS.

THE OPENING ACTION WEEK WILL UNDOUBTEDLY HELP MOBILISE COLLECTIVE EFFORTS IN THE STRUGGLE FOR LIQUIDATION OF MILITARY BASES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN SO AS TO CLEAR THE WAY FOR TURNING IT INTO AN OCEAN OF PEACE." END TEXT. END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. COMMENT: THIS IS THE FIRST SUCH REFERENCE IN SOVIET PRESS THAT WE HAVE SEEN SINCE CURRENT ROUND OF INDIAN OCEAN TALKS BEGAN. NOTABLE ASPECTS OF ARTICLE ARE:

-INDICATION THAT THROUGH THEIR FRONT "WORLD PEACE COUNCIL" SOVIETS ARE GINNING UP WIDE PROPAGANDA EFFORT TO COINCIDE WITH INDIAN OCEAN TALKS IN BERN;

-ASSOCIATION OF SOVIET AND IO LITTORAL STATES' INTERESTS IN SUPPORTING ZONE OF PEACE PROPOSAL;

-THE THREAT WHICH POLICIES AND BASES OF US, UK AND CONFIDENTIAL

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FRANCE ALLEGEDLY POSE TO THE PEOPLES AND COUNTRIES OF THE AREA. END CONFIDENTIAL. MATLOCK

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## Message Attributes

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